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MOTION PICTURE PARTICULARS

MOVIE MOMENTS THAT STAY ON MY MIND - VOL. 1

BY EVELYN WITTERHOLT

"Now more than ever we need to talk to each other, to listen to each other and understand how we see the world, and cinema is the best medium for doing this."

-Martin Scorsese

To say I love cinema is an understatement. According to my carefully cultivated Letterboxd, I have seen 1,920 films (this could be higher, yes, but I am young so please cut me some slack).

Of these 3000+ hours of cinema I have seen, there are many little moments within these films I frequently think about. Here are a few moments, motion picture particulars if you will, that live within my consciousness and haven't seemed to have left yet.

P.S. Potential spoilers for a few of the mentioned films. If you haven't seen them, I highly recommend watching all of these movies.

Links to YouTube clips of each movie moment:

American Psycho

Borat

Jackie Brown

First Reformed

Climax

Dog Day Afternoon

Scream

GoodFellas

Mulholland Dr.

The Florida Project

Kiki's Delivery Service

Heat

Little Women

Little Women (Dir. Greta Gerwig, 2019)

The moment: Father March (Bob Odenkirk) showing up briefly to drop the title of the movie

No one says "Little Women" quite like Bob Odenkirk

Scream (Dir. Wes Craven, 1996)

The moment: Fred the janitor (played by Wes Craven)

I love how Wes Craven appears in his meta-horror film as a character inspired by a horror character (Freddy Krueger) that he created. RIP Wes

American Psycho (Dir. Mary Harron, 2000)

The moment: Patrick Bateman's (Christian Bale) Huey Lewis and the News monologue

The original novel by Bret Easton Ellis (a masterpiece in its own right), is not an easy one to adapt. In the novel, Patrick frequently goes on long tangents about a variety of topics, often spanning entire chapters about one subject. There are a few chapters dedicated solely to the entire history of what music artists he is listening to, Huey Lewis and the News being one of them. In the film, this tangent is adapted as a monologue Patrick gives before he kills Paul Allen, which is a brilliant and hilarious way to adapt the difficult source material.

Borat: Cultural Learnings of America for Make Benefit Glorious Nation of Kazakhstan (Dir. Larry Charles, 2006)

The moment: This stupid tortoise bit

Borat is a hilarious portrait of post-9/11 America and offers a lot of shocking insight into the culture at the time. Or so I'm told, I was only 9 when the film came out and didn't even know what 9/11 was. This tortoise joke is hilarious though.

Jackie Brown (Dir. Quentin Tarantino, 1997)

The moment: Louis Gara (Robert de Niro) hitting a bong

I just think this is really cool

Heat (Dir. Michael Mann, 1995)

The moment: When the police force Charlene (Ashley Judd) to bring her husband Chris Shiherlis (Val Kilmer) to them, upon seeing him, she gives him a signal at the last second to spare him.

After staying away from each other, and away from the police, Charlene gets taken in by the cops who hope to use her to lure Chris out of hiding. They get her to call him to their location, but she outsmarts them by asking to take a look at him outside before letting him in. Once she sees him, and sees how happy he is to see her, she decides to give him a hand gesture to warn him. Although their relationship was far from perfect, it's still a powerful moment. But which is worse? A prison sentence? Or never seeing your wife and child again? In the moment, both felt the heat around the corner and both chose the latter.

The Florida Project (Dir. Sean Baker, 2017)

The moment: Motel manager Bobby (Willem Dafoe) confronts some birds on the motel driveway

When he's not collecting money from motel residents or smacking soda cans out of the hands of pedophiles, Bobby has to keep the birds off his property. I just really like seeing Willem Dafoe, who is very birdlike, speak to birds as if they are people.

Kiki's Delivery Service (Dir. Hayao Miyazaki, 1989)

The moment: Jiji seeing himself on a mug and Kiki later buying it

As a black cat owner, I've always loved Jiji in this film. I too jump at the chance to get anything with a black cat on it

First Reformed (Dir. Paul Schrader, 2017)

The moment: When Pastor Joel Jeffers (Cedric Kyles) turns his back on Pastor Ernst Toller (Ethan Hawke) for suggesting their church do something about the climate change crisis

Throughout the film, Toller faces an existential crisis when he learns about the effects of climate change. Toller is a pastor at a small, historical church that is owned by an evangelical megachurch that Jeffers runs. When Toller proposes to Jeffers that their church helps save our planet (God's creation), Jeffers quite literally turns his back on him as he suggests this. This comes as no surprise, as we recently discovered that his megachurch is funded by polluting industrialists.

Climax (Dir. Gaspar Noé, 2018)

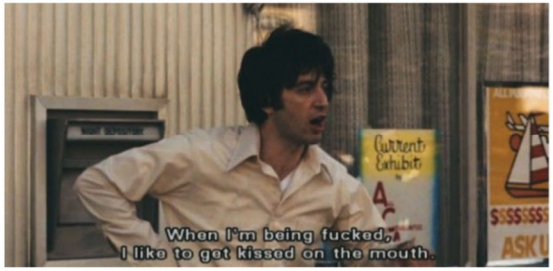
Anyone who's ever been too high on LSD can likely understand why she does this.

The moment: After getting dosed with LSD, Selva (Sofia Boutella) freaks out in the hall. She then sticks her hands in her tights because it feels good and then freaks out at the sight of it.

Dog Day Afternoon (Dir. Sidney Lumet, 1975)

The moment: This line and how Al Pacino reads it

It's just a really good line from a really good movie. Al Pacino is the G.O.A.T



GoodFellas (Dir. Martin Scorsese, 1990)

The moment: Robert De Niro's ketchup swivel move

There are many things to note about this scene, like Martin Scorsese's mom and her dog painting. But I frequently think about how Robert De Niro's ketchup swivel manuever. So much so, I hardly even register that he's putting ketchup on his spaghetti!

Mulholland Dr. (Dir. David Lynch, 2001)

The moment: Studio executive spitting out his espresso

There is a lot of tension in this scene, but it's incredible how much of it rides on whether or not Luigi Castigliane (played by the film's composer Angelo Badalamenti) enjoys his espresso. You can practically feel the room grow cold once he spits it out.